



## **NEWS FROM NOAA**

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### **Local High School Student Experiences Marine Science Firsthand at Woods Hole Science Aquarium**

They came from diverse educational and family backgrounds and from states across the nation, but for Linnea Borden of Falmouth, Mass., one of the 11 high school and college students who spent the summer working or volunteering at the Woods Hole Science Aquarium (WHSA), it has been a team effort and a summer to remember.

Feeding the fish, training the harbor seals, cleaning tanks, leading shore-side collecting trips for the public, and helping children and adults learn about marine animals at the touch tanks have all been part of their daily routine. The WHSA, the nation's oldest public research display aquarium, offers two summer programs for students who have completed grade 10 or higher, a five-week internship and a two-week career seminar in late July. Both programs are run by the WHSA staff, and are projects of NOAA's Northeast Fisheries Science Center and the neighboring Marine Biological Laboratory.

Borden participated in the two-week Careers in Marine Science Seminar July 21 to August 1, along with four other high school students from California, Utah, New York and Massachusetts. Several seminar students, including Borden, stayed on as interns for an additional 1-2 weeks to help with animal husbandry and to serve as junior naturalists on collecting walks.

The career seminar students get training in marine animal husbandry and basic aquarist chores, hear presentations from scientists working in a variety of marine fields, go on collecting trips, visit other Woods Hole science institutions, and go on field trips to the New Bedford and Nantucket. The seminar is designed to give students an idea of what people working in Woods Hole do and how different areas of science contribute to the larger effort to understand the marine world and to manage marine resources wisely.

Borden is entering her junior year at Upper Cape Cod Regional Technical High School in Bourne in the environmental science and technology program, and plans to attend a four-year college to major in environmental science or environmental forensics. She has been breeding zebra fish in one of her high school classes and helps care for the 119-acre Lyman Reserve in Bourne, where she removes invasive species and performs water quality testing as part of another course.

She says learning about aquaculture, maintaining tanks and running an aquarium will be helpful when her classes begin in a few weeks. She is an honors student, has OSHA (Occupational Health and Safety Administration) certification earned through a school course, and is a member of the Key Club at Falmouth High School.

Borden has volunteered at a number of community events, including the St. Barnabas Church Strawberry Festival, Falmouth Road Race and Cape Cod Marathon. She participated this summer in the Relay for Life walk to raise money for cancer research, walking in honor of her grandmother who died earlier this year from lung cancer.

“It was a great opportunity to see how an aquarium operation works, and to learn about all the career opportunities in marine science,” she said of the experience. “The program was even better than I expected, especially being able to visit other zoos and aquaria and see how they care for and work with terrestrial and marine animals, and to go on collecting trips.”

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